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## Book Ends

**Slush.** A recent Guest Word column prophesying more publishers will refuse to read unsolicited manuscripts no doubt caused a tremor among the Great Unpublished Out There, the struggling writers still hungrily gulping the American Dream of discovery. That they are out there is attested to by the response to the article reported by at least one house, Little, Brown (where, the Guest Word reported, they still read slush): the pile went up several inches. To throw a little fuel on the dream, we'll tell you a slush-pile success story. The book is "Six Days of the Condor," by James Grady, which Norton will publish June 3, and it was discovered, yes, in the slush pile by editor Star Lawrence. Now, it's been sold to the movies and is a Literary Guild alternate. Mr. Grady's novel seems to breed an affinity with first-readers, because it is about a man who reads spy stories for the C. I. A., looking for parallels with real life operations and for tips for C.I.A. spies. Over at Literary Guild, where they have eight

readers going through their slush piles, the readers had an instant empathy with Mr. Grady's hero and urged the book on their boss. So let's hear it for the first readers, whether in the publishing houses, the C.I.A. or wherever.